

# *Reaching and Keeping Tweenagers*

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*This survey was sponsored by:*

Baptist Union of Great Britain  
Boys' Brigade  
Church Army  
Church Pastoral Aid Society  
Crusaders  
Evangelical Alliance  
J W Laing Trust  
Salesians of Don Bosco  
Spring Harvest  
Youth for Christ

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**Christian Research**

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# Introduction

**I**t was real scary as the analysis began. I came into work one morning and my colleagues said to me, “What’s up?” “I’ve been trying to understand the figures from this 1998 English Church Attendance Survey,” I replied. “I’ve been looking at the number of children under 15 in the church. They’ve dropped nearly half a million in the last nine years. We’re losing kids at the rate of 1,000 a week! Two churches in five in England have no children’s or youth work at all.”

“What can we do?” they asked.

“We’ve got to find out why.” We all agreed. So did others serving with youth organisations and battling it out at the front line. Crusaders, Youth For Christ, the Salesians of Don Bosco, Church Pastoral Aid Society, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, Spring Harvest, J W Laing Trust and the Evangelical Alliance were all concerned and responded to letters asking for help with a major new study specially aimed at youth. Others also supported the study in different ways, like Boys’ Brigade and Church Army. In addition a much wider body of people kindly agreed to act on the Council of Reference.<sup>1</sup>

A small planning committee under the chairmanship of Richard Bromley, Director of Local Ministry, Youth for Christ, began to consider what should be investigated and how. The project was called Reaching And Keeping Early Secondaries (RAKES). The outcome was that four groups of young people were identified:

- Those who were currently still in church
- Those who had been in church but had left
- Those who had never gone regularly to church
- Those who attended Christian events or youth clubs but who didn’t go to church regularly.

It was agreed that the main focus of the study should be young people aged 10 to 14 (school years 6 to 10), though inevitably some 9 and 15 year olds were caught up in the sweep. We approached schools, churches, and parachurch agencies asking for young people to complete a questionnaire, and also held two Focus Groups, one among churchgoing young people and one among non-churchgoers. It was perhaps especially appropriate that this survey took place in 2001, the UNICEF “Year of the Child”. State and Church (Anglican and Catholic) Schools were approached.

There has been a huge amount of support for this study, and virtually everyone we approached has seen its importance and supported it as far as they could. We are tremendously thankful for this interest and concern, and grateful to all who have helped in whatever way.

But of course, it’s what all these young people said that’s really important – so read on!

<sup>1</sup> A full list of sponsors appears on the title page. A complete list of the Council of Reference is given in Appendix 1.

## Hi, Tweens!

**M**ost British children move from junior school to secondary school around the age of 11. Some go to a middle school, but these are being phased out, and some 7% go to public school at 13, but for the large majority, the change comes the year they celebrate their 11th birthday.

Teenage attitudes and values develop gradually over several years, starting in the final phase of junior school. Hence the focus of this study on these “early and pre-teens” as the survey questionnaire was headed, or “early secondaries” as it was otherwise described. A more convenient word for this age-group is “Tweenagers”, a term originally coined by marketing professionals, so that’s what we’ll call them.

### *Why the concern?*

The English Church Attendance Survey and earlier English Church Censuses have shown that the total number of children under 15 attending church (of all denominations) on a Sunday was:

- 1,400,000 in 1979,
- 1,200,000 in 1989, and
- 720,000 in 1998.

The 200,000 decrease in the 1980s more than doubled in the 1990s. The 1990s decrease averaged 1,000 children a week leaving church, equivalent to 50,000 a year, or half a million, 500,000, in a decade. The rate of decline is not strictly linear, but even so it has been suggested that if these trends continue, by 2016 the number of children under 15 in English churches could be as low as 225,000.<sup>1</sup>

Much concern has been expressed at the huge decline: the Church Pastoral Aid Society [CPAS], for example, aims to mount a major attempt to give every child in the country an "opportunity to make their own choice about the Christian faith"<sup>2</sup>. A leaflet is available about their campaign entitled "A heart for children"<sup>3</sup>.

"The church must stop the haemorrhage of its young people and banish the generation gap from God's Kingdom," writes teacher and author of Sunday school materials Mrs Geraldine Witcher, and gives a whole book to explain how<sup>4</sup>.

### *Isn't the decline just normal population change?*

In fact, quite the contrary! There were 9,150,000 children under 15 in England in 1991, and 9,440,000 in 2001, an increase of nearly 300,000; the number is projected to decline 600,000 to 8,830,000 children by 2011, a decrease of 6%. The decline is not necessarily the same among churchgoing and non-churchgoing families, but nevertheless a small proportion of the future decline may be for natural reasons rather than anything to do with the church as such.

### *Who gave information?*

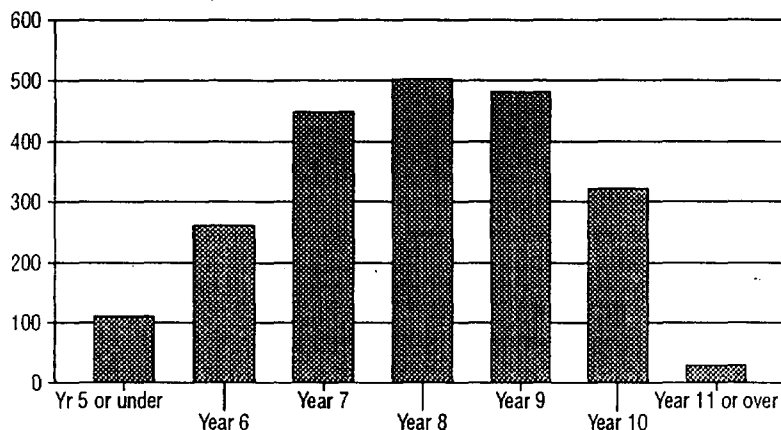
The upper third (10–14 year olds) of this under 15 age-group was chosen for this study partly because of the educational and physical changes that occur in this five year period (which may influence their feelings towards the church), but also because it is during these years that many parents give their children freedom to choose whether or not they wish to continue coming with them to church.

A random selection of ministers was asked to distribute forms to the 10–14 age-group in their church or Sunday School<sup>5</sup>; 549 forms were returned from them. Just over 100 schools in the same towns as these churches were asked if they would allow one or more classes to complete the questionnaires, and more than a third agreed, returning in total 1,296 forms. In addition, forms were distributed to

various Christian organisations working with young people of this age range and 327 forms were returned, giving a grand total of 2,172 forms. Thanks so much to all who helped in this exercise!

The returned forms were distributed across the different school years as shown below, where Year 6 is largely 10 year olds, Year 7 are aged 11 and so on up to Year 10 who are 14, and Year 11 who are 15.

*Figure 1.1: Number of forms returned by school year*



This is a very fair spectrum of the relevant target group. For convenience the few in Year 11 or over have been added to those in Year 10, and those in Year 5 or under to those in Year 6 for analysis. Nearly half, 47%, of the respondents were boys, a little under the population proportion of 51% for this age. The Focus Groups had a similar representation of ages, with the 7 girls and 10 boys who attended being 4 from Year 6, 4 from Year 7, 5 from Year 8, 3 from Year 9 and 1 from Year 10.

One question asked what grades they achieved for their school work. Their answers showed a range across the full spectrum, but more in the higher grades, indicating an ability to answer the questions sensibly (though whether they all did so is another matter!). Those aged 14 tended to get the lowest grades; full details are in Appendix 4, Table A4/1. Girls claimed higher grades than boys, as

per Appendix 4, Table A4/2.

- 34% A grades
- 51% B
- 13% C
- 2% D, E or F.

Naturally we were also interested in whether they felt they were Christian or not. They replied as follows:

- 55% were Christian
- 24% were not sure if they were Christian
- 14% had never been a Christian
- 3% were no longer Christian, and
- 4% belonged to another religion, slightly less than in the general population.

However, being a Christian and regularly attending a place of worship is not the same thing! When asked if they now went, or had ever gone, to church or Sunday School, they replied:

- 36% went to church regularly
- 18% went to church occasionally
- 22% used to go, but didn't now
- 24% had never been.<sup>6</sup>

This is a very reasonable cross selection of the various kinds of experiences that were being explored. When the form mentioned "church" we asked the 4% who belonged to other religions to substitute "temple", "synagogue", "mosque", etc. The questionnaire did not include a question on ethnic origins.

### *Experience of church*

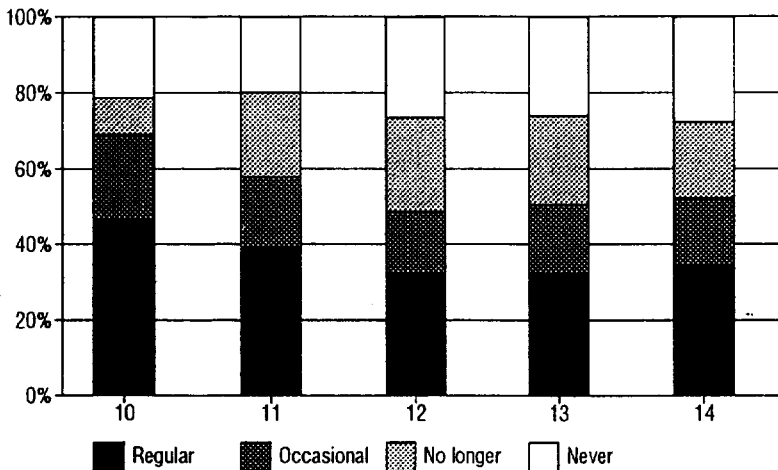
The respondents' churchgoing varied by age, gender and academic success (as measured by the grades they usually obtained). Figure 1.2 illustrates how their churchgoing varied with their age.

The regular churchgoers decline with age, with the largest drop between those aged 11 and 12, when young people have been in secondary school for a year or so. Those who go to church only occa-



sionally drop in number at the same time, although with a marginal increase later. The change is, however, even more noticeable among those who are no longer churchgoers, increasing between those aged 10 and 11, the year they move from junior to secondary school. It is this transition which is the key dividing line.

*Figure 1.2: Churchgoing experience by age*



All ten Tweenagers in the churchgoing Focus Group attended church regularly, though not necessarily every week. However, of the non-churchgoing group, one used to attend and all the others had been to church for a wedding, christening or on parade with a uniformed organisation. The one who used to attend was brought by a friend when she was in Year 7 and went 'on and off' for about 18 months.

Several researchers, perhaps especially in the UK Professor Leslie Francis, have explored the reasons why women tend to go to church more than men. The same was true of the boys and girls in this sample as Table 1.3 shows: more girls went regularly, more boys went occasionally or never. However, girls were the more likely to have dropped out.

Table 1.3: Church attendance by gender

<i>Gender</i>	<i>Regular</i>	<i>Occasional</i>	<i>Lapsed</i>	<i>Never</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Boy	32	20	19	29
Girl	39	17	25	19
<b>Overall</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>

The grades young people usually obtained also varied between churchgoers and others<sup>7</sup>. Nearly half, 46%, of those who got grade A (or claimed they did!) were regular churchgoers, almost double the proportion of those who no longer or never went to church. Are those with most academic success (as measured by their school grade) more attracted or loyal to church, or does this but reflect the often-stated claim that the church is middle-class? Those who got the lowest grades (D, E or F) were more likely to be occasional churchgoers. The percentage of those normally getting Grades B or C increased the further they were from being regular churchgoers! Details are in Table 1.4.

Table 1.4: Church attendance by academic success

<i>Usual Grade</i>	<i>Regular</i>	<i>Occasional</i>	<i>Lapsed</i>	<i>Never</i>	<i>Overall</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
A	46	33	28	24	34
B	44	53	56	57	51
C	9	11	14	18	13
D, E, F	1	3	2	1	2

### *Who are these young people?*

They may be called Tweenagers, but their generation has been given plenty of other names as well! Their parents were initially called the Buster Generation, as in a sense they broke (or "bust") the population boom in which their parents (that is, our sample's grandparents) had been born. In Britain this term was never very popular and for

## Appendix 1:

# Sponsors and Council of Reference

We are extremely grateful that this research has been supported and advised by so many. The survey sponsors, by finance or in kind, were:

The Baptist Union of Great Britain

The Boys' Brigade

The Church Army

Church Pastoral Aid Society

Crusaders

Evangelical Alliance

J W Laing Trust

Salesians of Don Bosco

Spring Harvest

Youth for Christ

Likewise we are very grateful for those who gave many hours serving on the Steering Committee, to help guide the entire project.

Richard Bromley (Chair)	Youth for Christ
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Darrell Jackson (initially)	Baptist Union of Great Britain
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Nick Lear (later)	Baptist Union of Great Britain
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Capt Ron Davies	Church Army
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Rev Philip Mounstephen	Church Pastoral Aid Society
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Matt Summerfield	Crusaders
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Ishmael Smale (initially)	Evangelical Alliance
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Danny Brierley (later)	Evangelical Alliance
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Martin Poulsom	Salesians of Don Bosco
----------------	------------------------

Rachael Orrell	Spring Harvest
----------------	----------------

Those who have been kind enough to comment on an initial draft of this manuscript were:

Richard Bromley	Youth For Christ
John Buckeridge	Youthwork
Revd Anthony Burnham	Moderator, Free Churches Group
The Revd Gill Dallow	Diocese of Leicester
Sydney Jones OBE	Boys' Brigade
Penny Frank	Church Pastoral Aid Society
Nick Lear	Baptist Union of Great Britain
John Marshall	formerly Director of Ministry, Saltmine
Revd Philip Mounstephen	Church Pastoral Aid Society
Martin Poulson	Salesians of Don Bosco
Debby Sharp	Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs
Heather Wraight	Christian Research

## Appendix 2: Methodology

### *Quantitative research*

This carefully planned survey was aimed at four groups of Tweenagers:

- Those who currently go to church on Sunday, but distinguishing between different types of frequency
- Those who are involved with a Christian activity (like Boys' Brigade, church youth club, Crusaders, etc) during the week but who do not go to church on Sunday
- Those who do not go to church at all, contacted via schools
- Those who had stopped going to church, by far the most difficult group to contact.

A questionnaire was sent to a carefully selected random probability sample of ministers, taking into account such factors as denomination, churchmanship, church environment and geographical location. Each participating church was sent an appropriate number of forms, up to a maximum of 20. A total of 1,008 ministers across four denominations were chosen and asked if they would distribute forms to children in their church aged between 10 and 14. One in every eight, 12% [123 churches], agreed to do so.

The number of forms requested is shown in the Table on the next page, together with the number of responding churches to whom they were sent. No church was sent more than 20 forms, however many were requested. It is not possible to know if all the forms sent were distributed, but if they were, the response rate was 38% [549 forms]. If fewer were actually distributed, the response rate would be proportionately higher.

Table A2/1: Number of forms sent to which types of church

		Evangelical				Non-evangelical				Total
		Ang	Bap	Meth	New	Ang	Bap	Meth	New	
N O R T H	City	5/1	8/1	15/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	28/3
	Sub	68/7	8/1	8/1	20/2	135/10	0/0	18/2	88/5	345/28
	Town	20/2	18/2	0/0	0/0	22/3	0/0	0/0	0/0	60/7
	Rural	48/4	0/0	0/0	0/0	62/4	0/0	0/0	30/2	140/10
S O U T H	City	10/1	28/2	19/2	0/0	8/1	8/1	0/0	0/0	73/7
	Sub	94/11	68/3	0/0	0/0	184/13	28/2	6/1	14/1	394/31
	Town	144/8	42/3	6/1	16/2	77/8	0/0	0/0	30/2	315/24
	Rural	24/3	16/2	0/0	0/0	58/7	8/1	0/0	0/0	106/13
Total		413/37	188/14	48/5	36/4	546/46	44/4	24/3	162/10	1,461/123

The first figure is the number of forms sent, the second the number of churches

Christian youth organisations, especially those represented on the Steering Committee, were asked if they would distribute forms to their classes, groups, clubs etc. All kindly did so. We are especially grateful to the Boys' Brigade and the Church Army for asking young people whom they knew had stopped going to church to complete a form. It is impossible to know exactly how many forms were actually distributed, probably far fewer than the 1,580 supplied. 327 were returned, a notional response rate of 21%, but most likely probably the real response was nearer twice or even three times that.

A selection of 77 schools in the same areas as participating churches were also approached to ask if a form could be completed by relevant classes. The school year for class distribution varied from Year 6 in primary schools to Years 7 to 10 in secondary schools. Two-thirds of the schools were willing to help, and although again the exact number of forms distributed is not known, 63% of those sent were returned [1,296 forms], suggesting a rather higher rate of response since not every school would have distributed all the forms. Seven of the schools were suggested by the Association of Christian Teachers, and there were 10 Church of England schools and 10 Catholic secondary schools in the numbers approached.

The questionnaire was subject to extensive testing, with a pilot, and advice from a Diocesan Children's Officer.

### *Attitudinal Research*

Qualitative or attitudinal research was undertaken by means of two Discussion or Focus Groups, with young people of this age range, one in a church context and one in a non-church.

### *Desk Research*

In addition to the above, desk research was also undertaken with a review of the literature and other religious research carried out. Extracts from the findings of others who have undertaken research among this age group have been incorporated with the text throughout.

### *The Report*

The actual questionnaire used is given in Appendix 3, together with percentages to the answer to each question. These have been analysed and reported as follows:

- Chapter 1: Questions 1–3 and 17
- Chapter 2: Questions 13–15 and 18
- Chapter 3: None
- Chapter 4: Questions 4–7
- Chapter 5: Questions 8 and 30
- Chapter 6: Questions 19–29
- Chapter 7: Questions 9–11 and 16
- Chapter 8: Questions 31 to 37
- Chapter 9: Question 12.

The result is this book of 57,500 words, excluding 6,000 in the Appendices.



## Appendix 3



## EARLY AND PRE-TEENS SURVEY

What is this survey? It looks at how young people spend their spare time and what they think about religion and the church.

Who should complete it? Young people aged between 10 and 14 years old. All your answers are confidential and no one else at your school or church will read them.

What should I do? 1) Do not write your name on the questionnaire.

2) Please tick ☒ only one answer for each question unless it asks you to tick more than one.

3) When you have finished put it in the envelope you have been given and seal it. Give it back to your leader/teacher. Thank you for your help.

## YOU AND THE THINGS YOU THINK AND DO

1. What school year are you in?

5 Year 5 or below      23 Year 8      2 Year 11 or above  
12 Year 6      22 Year 9  
21 Year 7      15 Year 10

2. Are you:

47 A boy      53 A girl

3. What grades do you mostly get for your school/college work?  
(Please tick one box only)

30 A      12 C      1 E & F  
45 B      2 D      10 Not graded

4. What sort of television programmes do you watch? (Please tick all that apply)

24 Animal/nature      44 Game shows  
58 Cartoons      9 Information  
81 Comedy      25 News  
14 Cookery      37 Quiz shows  
7 Current affairs      7 Religious programmes  
20 Documentaries      67 Soaps  
6 Discussion      47 Sport/leisure  
23 DIY/gardening      4 Don't watch much television  
79 Films

5. Do you own any of the following yourself? (Please tick all that apply)

74 Computer      66 Personal Stereo  
22 DVD      4 Playnet  
62 Mobile phone/35 Televideo  
80 Music system      61 TV in your room  
61 Personal CD      36 Video in your room  
61 Playstation/Dreamcast/N64      10 WAP phone

6. Do you have your own room?

84 Yes, all to myself      16 No, I share with brothers/sisters

7a. Do you have access to a computer?

94 Yes      6 No (go to Q8)

7b. If yes, do you have access to the Internet?

81 Yes      13 No (go to Q8)

7c. If yes, how often do you access the Internet?

9 More than once a day      9 Once a month  
24 Once a day      9 Less than once a month  
30 Once a week

7d. What do you use the Internet for? (Please tick all that apply)

27 Chat rooms      8 News      13 Shopping  
55 E-mails      45 Play games      14 Other (please specify)  
55 Information      33 Play music

8. What else do you do in your spare time? (Please tick one box per row)

I do it:	on my own	with friends	with other people	I don't do it
Do homework	84	6	5	5
Go to church activities	4	28	17	51
Go to discos/nightclubs	1	60	7	32
Go to the cinema	2	77	15	6
Go to a youth/church club	4	39	9	48
Hang around with friends	4	88	3	5
Listen to music	67	26	4	3
Play arcade games	13	36	6	45
Play home computer/electronic games	59	25	7	9
Play team sports	3	57	23	17
Read books and comics	77	4	1	18
Skate/rollerblade/cycle	21	52	9	18

Spend time with boyfriend or girlfriend      25      19      2      54  
Watch videos/DVD      25      52      17      6  
Watch television      50      27      21      2  
Other hobbies/interests      23      45      14      18  
(please specify)

9. For each of the following statements please indicate whether you agree or disagree: (please tick one box per row)

	Agree	Not sure	Disagree
Everyone needs a hero in their life	29	41	30
In times of trouble or crisis I feel all alone	36	28	36
It is always wrong to tell lies	42	28	30
It is always wrong to cheat	67	19	14
It is better to get even than mad	38	36	26
It is OK to copy things from other people if you are in a hurry	24	31	45
It is OK to take little things like pencils from school	12	17	71
Life's too short to worry	43	28	29
My opinions and attitudes are not taken seriously	27	42	31
One person cannot really make a difference in this world	22	23	55
Sometimes it is necessary to tell a lie	66	21	13
Stealing is always wrong	73	15	12
The future will be better than today	25	61	14
The main purpose of life is enjoyment and personal fulfilment	55	30	15
There is no one who I consider to be my hero or role model	28	31	41



Keep going, you're doing fine!!



10. Do you do any activity that helps other people around where you live? (Please tick all that apply)

- 22 Yes, on my own                      33 Yes, through my school  
19 Yes, through church              38 No  
18 Yes, through other groups like Scouts/Guides

11a. If you found a £20 note lying on the pavement, would you: (Please tick one only)

- 5 Leave it there  
24 Pick it up and hand it in at the police station  
58 Pick it up and keep it  
13 Pick it up and give it to charity

11b. If you found two £50 notes lying on the pavement, would you: (Please tick one only)

- 3 Leave them there  
42 Pick them up and hand them in at the police station  
40 Pick them up and keep them  
8 Pick them up and give them to charity  
7 Pick one up and leave the other

12a. What sort of person do you think you are? (Please tick all that apply)

- |                 |             |                 |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 14 Angry        | 57 Helpful  | 57 Reliable     |
| 24 Annoying     | 36 Lazy     | 14 Rude         |
| 20 Bessy        | 23 Leader   | 11 Scared       |
| 3 Bully         | 45 Mature   | 7 Self-centred  |
| 63 Caring       | 41 Messy    | 27 Shy          |
| 36 Daring       | 28 Moody    | 9 Slow          |
| 35 Forgetful    | 43 Noisy    | 52 Sporty       |
| 82 Friendly     | 24 Ordinary | 57 Talkative    |
| 64 Funny        | 21 Quiet    | 54 Thoughtful   |
| 20 Fussy        | 15 Peaceful | 7 Unforgiving   |
| 67 Happy        | 10 Perfect  | 26 Unusual      |
| 56 Hard-working | 49 Playful  | 48 Well-behaved |

12b. How do you think other people would describe you? (Please tick all that apply)

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 75 A good friend to have when there is trouble | 3 A bad person           |
| 13 Someone who gets into a lot of trouble      | 73 A good laugh          |
| 46 Someone who knows what they are doing       | 16 A baffin              |
| 3 Someone who doesn't care about others        | 37 A cool dude           |
| 10 Someone who always wants their own way      | 6 A nerd                 |
|  | 66 Someone you can trust |
|  | 27 A bit of a pain       |
|  | 66 A good person         |

13. Which of the following do you trust? (Please tick all that apply)

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 89 Parents                              | 5 Politicians                      |
| 71 Other family members                 | 7 People on Television             |
| 56 Police                               | 3 People who write in newspapers   |
| 44 Teachers                             | 14 Lawyers                         |
| 17 Social workers                       |                                    |
| 59 Doctors and nurses                   | 34 Other children and young people |
| 31 People who go to church              | 35 Childline                       |
| 42 Church leaders (vicar/minister)      | 29 A neighbour                     |
| 32 Youth club leaders                   |                                    |
| 19 Leaders of things like guides/scouts |                                    |

14. Which one of the following statements comes closest to describing how you would define a family? (Please tick one box only)

- 37 Where all members of the family are related to each other by birth, adoption or marriage  
56 Any person or group whom you love or care about deeply, or who love or care about you deeply  
4 Any group of people who live in the same home together  
3 Any group of people who share the same set of values and goals in life

15. Which of the following statements best describes your home? My home is a place where... (Please tick one box only)

- 59 I feel secure and loved  
9 Each of us is trying to love each other  
24 Sometimes I feel loved, other times I don't  
4 I usually feel uncomfortable and would rather be elsewhere  
4 I feel comfortable, although we are not a close, loving family

16. Over the past three months have you done any of the following activities (remember, everything you tell us is anonymous and confidential): (Please tick all that apply)

- 69 Watched a horror or violent film  
6 Used an illegal drug  
15 Cheated on an exam or test  
7 Stolen money  
5 Been involved in shoplifting  
56 Lied to a parent, teacher or other adult  
46 Lied to a friend or another young person  
20 Drank enough alcohol to get drunk  
17 Intentionally tried to hurt someone physically  
20 Intentionally tried to hurt someone's feelings  
13 Smoked a cigarette



## WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT RELIGION AND CHURCH

17. Which of the following statements best describes your present religious commitment? (Please tick one box only)

- 55 I am a Christian  
24 I am not sure if I am a Christian  
3 I am no longer a Christian  
14 I have never been a Christian  
4 I belong to another religion (please specify)

\* If you belong to another religion, then wherever you see the word "church" please think of "temple" or "mosque" or the place you usually go to for worship if you can, but if you can't then please go to the next question.

18. Do you know if your parents and grandparents have ever gone to church? (Please tick one box for each column)

	Parents      Grandparents		
		(Mum's Parents)	(Dad's Parents)
No, they have never gone	13	10	13
They go occasionally	19	22	18
They used to go regularly but they don't go now	12	13	10
They have recently started going to church	2	1	1
One goes to church but the other does not	12	6	5
They have always gone regularly	29	24	23
I don't know	13	24	31

19. Do you now, or have you ever gone to church or Sunday school on a Sunday? (Please tick one only)

- 24 No, I have never been (go to Q26)  
 22 No, I used to go but I don't go now (go to Q20a)  
 18 Yes, I go occasionally (go to Q21)  
 16 Yes, I go regularly (go to Q22)

20a. If you stopped going to a church, Sunday school or junior church, how old were you when you stopped going?

20b. Why did you stop going? (Please tick all that apply)

- 7 Family pressure  
 4 I started going to see the parent that I don't live with  
 10 My friends stopped going  
 18 There were no activities for young people  
 7 Did not get on with the leaders  
 9 Did not get on with other young people / children  
 12 I had serious doubts about the Christian religion  
 37 The worship service was boring  
 12 Did not understand the lessons  
 23 The services were old-fashioned  
 18 Some other reason (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Now go to Q24
- 44 I grew out of it  
 46 I did not enjoy it  
 23 There were few other people there of my age  
 4 I was always late  
 11 Moved out of the area  
 7 I didn't like the way I was treated  
 3 The services were too lively  
 17 Church services started too early  
 8 The congregation was not welcoming  
 Now go to Q24

21. If you go to church occasionally, what sorts of things do you go to church for? (Please tick all that apply)

- 18 Confirmation  
 62 Wedding/ funeral  
 49 Christening/baptism/dedication  
 34 Carol service  
 38 Christmas day / midnight mass  
 24 Something else (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Now go to Q24
- 20 Youth service  
 17 Church parade  
 34 Easter Day  
 24 Harvest Festival  
 23 Mothering Sunday

22. Can you remember why you started going to church? (Please tick one only) \*If you go to more than one church, please answer the questions for the church you go to most often.

- 65 My parents took me to church as a baby because they go there  
 4 My parents sent me to Sunday School but did not go to church themselves  
 1 My family moved nearby and came from another church  
 5 I first went to church through a church activity  
 3 I was curious about what went on there  
 3 I first went with my grandparents  
 5 My friends go and asked me to go too  
 6 Another reason (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 8 Don't know

23. What is it about the church that you go to that you most like? (Please tick all that apply)

- 23 Bible teaching  
 28 Strong presence of God  
 45 Caring people  
 34 Enjoyable music  
 41 Enjoyable Sunday youth group  
 22 Enjoyable mid-week activities  
 51 Opportunity to meet friends/ new people  
 7 Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- 29 Youth leaders  
 20 Youth worship  
 19 The minister  
 32 Helps(ed) me worship God  
 25 Enjoyable drama  
 27 Enjoyable social activities  
 28 It is where I have always gone  
 13 Not sure

24. How old were you when you started going to church?

25. What kind of church do you or did you go to? (Please tick one only) (If you go to more than one church please think about the church you go to most often)

- 48 Church of England  
 6 Roman Catholic  
 10 Baptist  
 2 Pentecostal  
 13 Don't know
- 2 Independent  
 2 House/New Church  
 9 Methodist  
 8 Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

26. Many young people your age do not go to church, and others have stopped going. Why do you think that is? (Please tick all that you think apply)

- 87 They think it is boring  
 64 They don't believe in God  
 17 They don't feel welcome  
 16 Their families have moved away  
 18 They go out with their parents  
 43 They have never thought about it  
 23 They don't like the people who do go  
 41 They don't know anyone at church  
 34 They don't know what happens at church  
 63 They've got other things to do on a Sunday  
 49 They don't get up early enough on Sundays to go to church  
 23 They go to see the parent that they don't live with  
 6 Another reason (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- 39 They think it is irrelevant  
 61 None of their friends go  
 33 They feel out of place  
 67 They can't be bothered  
 11 They go out with their grandparents  
 14 They don't like the minister/ leader  
 22 They don't like the moral teaching  
 73 They think going to church isn't cool  
 15 Their parents might not like the minister/vicar  
 Now go to Q24

27. Why do you think some young people go to church? (Please tick all that apply)

- 68 They have always gone  
 60 They enjoy it  
 41 Because they think they should  
 64 To learn about God and Jesus  
 24 To sing hymns  
 6 Some other reason (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- 53 Their parents send them  
 17 It's near home  
 57 Their parents/family go  
 38 To meet their friends  
 24 To get points for their church youth activity

28. How often do you do each of the following activities: (please tick one box per row)

	Daily/Weekly/Monthly/Occasionally/Never				
Read part of the Bible	9	18	4	31	38
Pray to God	32	14	4	24	26
Attend a church based youth group	2	37	4	9	48
Lead a church based youth group	1	3	1	6	89
Take an active part in church services	2	12	10	28	48
Attend a Bible study group	2	9	2	7	80

29a. Would you tell your friends if you went to church or to a youth activity based in a church?

- 48 Yes  
 20 No  
 32 Maybe



Hang on in there nearly finished now!

29b. What do you think your friends and other people would say if they thought that you went to a church or a youth activity based in a church? (Please tick one only)

- 16 They might be curious and ask me questions  
 32 They might make fun of me or think I am stupid or uncool  
 6 I would be too shy to tell anyone  
 3 They belong to another religion so they would not be bothered  
 33 I have already told my friends that I go  
 10 Something else (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

30a. Do you regularly attend any of the following activities in a church hall during the week? (Please tick all that apply)

- 5 Boys/Girls Brigade  
 6 Campaigners/Crusaders/  
 Pathfinders  
 4 Rock Solid Clubs  
 20 Sunday school/junior church  
 19 Youth group/fellowship  
 34 No (go to Q31a)  
 14 Out of school clubs  
 9 Holiday clubs  
 13 Scouts/Guides  
 19 Youth Club  
 12 Drama/Music group  
 4 Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

30b. Would you describe these activities as:

- 31 Excellent    5 Poor    13 Average  
 45 Good    6 Don't know

### YOUR BELIEFS AND EXPERIENCES

31a. Which of the following do you believe in? (Please tick all that apply)

- 72 God    50 Hell    28 Re-incarnation  
 73 Heaven    67 Jesus    43 The Devil

31b. What do you think happens to people when they die? (Please tick one box only)

- 19 Everyone goes to heaven  
 35 Good people go to heaven and bad people go to hell  
 13 Only Christians go to heaven  
 10 People die and are born again as someone else  
 8 People die and are born again as another creature  
 15 Nothing, everything just stops

31c. Do you ever think about whether or not God exists?

- 58 Yes    24 No    18 Not sure

31d. Do you believe that you can have a relationship with God?

- 45 Yes    25 No    30 Not sure

32. Which of the following come into your picture of God? (Please tick all that apply)

- 62 Creator    48 Love    5 Policeman  
 57 Father    9 Mother    35 Saviour  
 22 Judge    35 Old man    4 Spoilsport  
 53 Friend    9 Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

33. Who do you think Jesus Christ is/was? (Please tick one only)

- 13 A very wise person    68 The son of God  
 8 An ordinary person    11 Someone who never existed

34. In your opinion what makes a person a Christian? (Please tick all that apply)

- 28 Being born in a Christian family    14 Going to a Christian school  
 49 Being baptised/ Christened  
 3 Being born in the UK    42 Knowing Jesus as a personal saviour  
 66 Believing in God  
 49 Believing the Bible is true    26 Leading a good life  
 36 Going to church    7 Don't know  
 21 Saying that they are Christian  
 3 Something else (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

35. Have you been: (Please tick all that apply)

- 40 Baptised    55 Christened  
 19 Admitted to communion    16 Confirmed  
 15 Admitted to membership of a church



36a. Have you ever experienced any of these? (Please tick one box per row)

	Yes	Not sure	No
An experience of becoming a Christian	35	29	36
A healing experience	15	25	60
Visions/voices/strange dreams	38	17	45
Something beyond description	23	22	55
Feeling as if somebody/something were trying to communicate with you	31	24	45

A feeling of peace during a church service	38	20	42
An experience to do with nature	22	28	50
The presence of God	32	26	42
Some other spiritual/supernatural force	20	26	54
Something else (please specify)	7	11	82

36b. Do you know any other people who have had experiences like these?

- 47 Yes    53 No (go to Q37)

36c. If yes, what do you think about them or their experience? (Please tick one only)

- 42 I can relate to them/it    15 It sounds scary  
 7 I'm envious    14 I think they are a bit mad  
 5 It was a coincidence  
 17 Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

37. Do you think that Christianity is relevant to you?

- 52 Yes    21 No    27 Not sure



Well done - you're a star!!

Thank you very much. Now please put the questionnaire in the envelope provided and hand it back to your teacher or group leader.